

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS19238

In 2004, the Idaho legislature authorized wine sample tasting at wineries and at premises licensed for the retail sale of wine. This legislation authorizes manufacturers of distilled spirit beverages to conduct distilled spirit sample tastings on the manufacturer's premises or on premises licensed by the state of Idaho for the retail sale of liquor by the drink, subject to the same restrictions and requirements as set forth in the Idaho wine sample tasting legislation.

Brands of distilled spirit products are marketed to the public through Idaho state liquor stores of the Idaho State Liquor Division and licensed retail liquor by the drink establishments. For those persons who choose to purchase distilled spirit products, tastings at premises licensed for the sale of liquor by the drink or at premises of licensed manufacturers of such products within the state of Idaho are a way in which to permit adult consumers to sample, compare and ultimately choose beverage alcohol products, before having to pay for a full-sized premium product, and to acquaint themselves with new products coming into the state through the State Liquor Division.

This legislation limits the sample sizes that may be served; the number of tastings a manufacturer may conduct on licensed premises; provides that the manufacturer shall provide the product to be sampled and remove unused product at the conclusion of the tasting; and, that the person serving the samples for tasting will be employees or agents of the manufacturer and must be at least 21 years of age. Over 36 states, as of 2008, have allowed tastings of distilled spirit beverages in licensed establishments and those states have not reported abuse, social consequences or enforcement problems related to laws that permit limited beverage sampling.

As previously stated, in 2004, the Idaho legislature authorized wine sample tasting. Such events have been conducted successfully for the past five years. This proposed legislation mirrors the requirements and restrictions set forth in the 2004 Idaho wine sample tasting legislation, but further restricts the conduct of such events to premises licensed for consumption on the premises or at the place of manufacture of the product.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no negative fiscal impact on state or local governments.

Contact:

Name: Representative Jim Clark

Office:

Phone: (208) 332-1127